



# Celebrating Our Faith Journey 2026

A monthly publication of Faith Journey Lutheran Church West Fargo, ND

*Happy Summer, Faith Journey Family!*

*This month I'm hoping you'll give some thought to offering excitement. Yes, you read that right. **OFFERING EXCITEMENT.***

*From my perch in the front of the sanctuary, I witness so much excitement when the "noisy offering" is received during worship. People wave bills and jingle coins for our young ones to collect in their buckets and dump into the metal vase. **OFFERING EXCITEMENT***

*We have also seen a great deal of excitement about giving towards the new church sign. We are almost at our goal, and work will begin on the sign in July. **OFFERING EXCITEMENT.***

*We've got some serious **OFFERING EXCITEMENT** going on around here!*

*But what about the general fund and **OFFERING EXCITEMENT**? Maybe you think giving to the general fund is all about "keeping the lights on". Well, it is, and it isn't. Supporting the general fund helps us to live into our dreams.*

*Our church staff and leadership are dreaming some big dreams. We're dreaming about updates to our building after years of deferring necessary maintenance. We're dreaming about more outreach and visibility in our community. We're dreaming about ways - new ways to serve our neighbors. We're dreaming about ways to energize our children, youth, and family ministry and connect more deeply across the generations. We're dreaming about calling an Associate Pastor.*

*Every gift you give to the general fund is a step towards realizing our big dreams.*

*Can I get some **OFFERING EXCITEMENT** please?!!*

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Sue*

Pastor Sue Koesterman  
Faith Journey Lutheran Church, ELCA  
127 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
[skoesterman@growinfaith.org](mailto:skoesterman@growinfaith.org)  
701-282-3309 (main office)  
701-515-7762 (direct)  
701-951-8911 (mobile)



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



## June Memory Café Schedule – New Location! 3910 25<sup>th</sup> St. South, Fargo

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00pm – Music with The Norsky Brothers

June 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 4:30pm – Annual Redefining Memory Loss Conference at the Delta Hotel.  
Register today at [www.memorycaferrv.org](http://www.memorycaferrv.org)

June 17<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm – Education: Redefining Memory Loss Conference Takeaways “Applying What We’ve Learned”

June 24<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am – Moving Ahead Life After Loss Support Group, 3910 25<sup>th</sup> St. S. Fargo

June 24<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am – Caregiver Café Support Group



IN LOVING  
*Memory*

*Given in loving memory & in honor of members & friends of  
Faith Journey Lutheran Church*

### In Memory of:

Jerry Roth (2)  
Ron Zimmerman  
Ruth Carlson  
Keith Haring

### Given by:

James Roth  
Gale & Linda Bergee  
Gale & Linda Bergee  
Heather, Tyler & Noah O'Donnell

### Given to:

General Fund  
General Fund  
General Fund  
General Fund

### In Honor of:

Pastor Roger Domyahn  
Theadora Ustipak

### Given by:

Noreen Fischer  
Kelsi Ustipak (Aunt of Theadora)

### Given to:

Faith Foundation  
Facility Enhancement



*Baptized into the family of Faith Journey Lutheran Church*

May 17, 2026

Theadora Elowynn Gail Ustipak

Daughter of Bret & Emily Ustipak

### Events at Bethany for June:

Live Music: Dean Wendel – “Angel Blue” - June 5

- 3:00 PM - Bethany on 42nd (Chapel)
- 6:30 PM - Bethany on University (Chapel)

Campfire with Roasted Marshmallows

- June 10 - 6:30 PM - Bethany on 42nd (Fountain Patio)
- June 12 - 6:30 PM - Bethany on University (Community Life Patio)

Father’s Day Loaded Burger Bar - June 22

- 12:00 PM - Bethany on 42nd (Fountain Patio)
- 12:00 PM - Bethany on University (Community Life Patio)



### Volunteer Opportunities:

We also have a few volunteer opportunities this month for anyone interested in getting involved. This includes helping with our campfires, supporting our Father’s Day Loaded Burger Bar, and assisting with happy hours, as well as several outings throughout the month. These opportunities offer a chance to spend time with residents, support events as they happen, and be part of life at Bethany. **For more information, contact Brianne Anderson at (701) 239 - 3246 or visit our website under the "contact" section.**

# June

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion			
<b>7</b> 10am Service with Holy Communion Commissioning of Deacons	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	<b>9</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff meeting 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	<b>11</b> 6:30-8pm GriefShare 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10am Service with Holy Communion	<b>15</b> 5:30pm Church Council 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	<b>16</b> 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Landscaping Team Meeting	<b>17</b> 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Faith Formation Mtg 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	<b>18</b> 6:30-8pm GriefShare – final day for this session 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30am More than Manna
<b>21</b> 10am Service with Holy Communion	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Boy Scout Troop #213 7pm AA	<b>23</b> NO Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9am Piecemakers 9am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	<b>25</b> 6:45pm Dakota Vocal Union practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10am Worship with Holy Communion	<b>29</b> 7pm AA	<b>30</b> 10am Bible Study				

# From Maren

Happy Spring & Summer Everyone!

I love spring because it feels like an exhaling breath to me—it's like I've been holding my breath, bucking up with fortitude to the hard of winter weather & intense routine and I finally get to exhale, knowing winter is gone and summer is on its way! Spring for me is a time to take a moment to name achievements of the year and note what I want to do differently in the next year. Summer feels like "free breathing" to me—no holding my breath, just enjoyment.

My hope for all of us this summer is plenty of "free breathing" and Sabbath time. Sabbath is a joyful gift mandated by God (because God knows we need it!) — a holy pause from constant doing. It restores us mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. It creates space for realigning with God and family and renews our bodies and minds. While Sabbath is named as a day, it can also be moments throughout a day, time in a week, or longer seasons of rest.

For me, as summer approaches, it's helpful to do a simple self-check:

Does my time off include REST? Space to CONNECT with family and God with Christ at the center of my life? Does it bring JOY, laughter and meaningful connection? True Sabbath can be deeply transforming of our lives, families and churches.

Our church is a family. This summer, Staff continue working, church remains active, and we invite you to stay engaged with our church family this summer through worship, activities, Bible Camp, VBS, visits, our website, Facebook, and newsletters. We look forward to sharing meaningful and joy filled fun and Sabbath moments together!

My Spring and Summer prayer for all of us:

May we honor what we've accomplished, enjoy true "free breathing," soaking up some deserved fun in the sun, and intentionally embrace Sabbath—marked by REST, JOY, FAITH and CONNECTION.

Peace to you and yours this season,  
Maren Kramer  
Faith Formation Director  
mkramer@growinfaith.org | 7013692464



Dear Faith Journey Lutheran Family,

Summer is coming! Bible camp registration time is here! The Faith Formation Team has voted to have the youth of Faith Journey attend camp at Red Willow Bible Camp near Binford. Red Willow has a long history of ministering to kids while having plenty of fun. This summer's theme is "God With Us".



For some of our youth, camp is their first big adventure away from home. Your generosity makes it possible for our youth to have this wonderful experience and nurtures a great tradition at Faith Journey. There are several Faith Journey youth and young adults who have continued to attend camp through high school and later served as counselors and staff at Bible camp.

Please consider supporting camperships through your financial gift. Your gift will be a blessing to the future of our youth and God's church. All gifts will make an impact for the Gospel. We have set our fundraising goal at \$6,000. All funds raised will be used solely for camperships.

Ways to give:

1. Place cash or check in a white pew envelope at Church. Remember to mark "Rachel CT Bible Camp Fund".
2. Mail a check to the church. Please write "Rachel CT Bible Camp Fund" in the memo line.
3. Scan the QR code and select: "Rachel CT Bible Camp Fund"
4. When using the QR code, it will ask you if you would like to pay 17% of the cost of the card processing fee, press on it and choose "Other" then put in \$0.00. There is no need for you to donate anything in this area.

Here are some pictures of Faith Journey youth at Red Willow Bible Camp in previous summers. :)

Fun, Relaxation and Joy to you this summer!

Maren Kramer, LMSW  
Faith Formation Director, Faith Journey Lutheran Church  
127 2nd Ave. E. West Fargo, ND 58078  
[mkramer@growinfaith.org](mailto:mkramer@growinfaith.org) 701-369-2464





Our church directory is available to view on your computer! Instant Church Directory – the program we use to build our church directory - has a member website. Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Brenda Jo or Katie know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on-screen to complete the create log-in process. After you sign in, you'll see the most up-to-date directory for our church. Any time updates are made, they will be shown on the Online Members' Website, too. For more information about the members' website, go here: <https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/638-navigating-the-online-member-directory>

### **Exciting News from Faith Journey Lutheran Church!**

We feel blessed to share that Faith Journey Lutheran Church is in the beginning stages of developing our very own church app! We are looking forward to launching this new resource for our congregation in the very near future.

With our new app, everything will be conveniently available in one place, including:

- Online giving that is simple and secure
- Live streaming and recorded worship services
- Church calendar and event updates
- Announcements and important notifications
- Group messaging and ministry communication
- Easy access to church resources
- A convenient way to stay connected throughout the week

The giving portion of the app is already up and running; the QR code is located below. With that being said, we understand that we recently transitioned to Zeffy and are now in the process of moving giving to the Subsplash app. We completely understand that multiple changes can be frustrating, and we sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. We truly believe this is the best direction for our church as we continue to grow and make it easier for everyone to stay connected.

We are excited about the many ways this app will help strengthen communication, connection, and community at Faith Journey. Please keep an eye on the bulletin, newsletter, and email updates for more information as we move closer to launch! Feel free to reach out to Katie Berg with any questions.



### Upcoming Dates of Importance!

All Teams Meeting – June 10

Church Office Closed – June 19

Father's Day – June 21

Church Office Closed – July 3

250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States – July 4

Vacation Bible School – July 13 - 16

# RESPECT

E F L J A I M S H C R O Q J U N B W  
P O W C T C T H E O K E P W A B G Q  
A R J B O P O A A L N I S E C Y A X  
T G C Y G M E M V B F E N P W S T C  
I I L H D R P D F K F C S D E C D N  
E V M P A X A A N O N U O T N C J E  
N I C X U R Q C S C R K N N Y E T G  
C N I T T Q I L E S X T N K T E S W  
E E C J N M W T D A I N F Y G R J S  
A S A A L H R B Y Y E O E M B S O B  
F S M B U N D E R S T A N D I N G L  
S Y X V C I R M P S Y M P A T H Y D

*CHARITY*

*COMFORT*

*COMPASSION*

*FORGIVENESS*

*GRACE*

*HONESTY*

*KINDNESS*

*PATIENCE*

*RESPECT*

*SELFCONTROL*

*SYMPATHY*

*UNDERSTANDING*



## WHO & HOW TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Faith Journey Lutheran Church

WIFI Guest: Faith-Guest Password: FaithJourney

Ministers: All members of Faith Journey Lutheran Church

Pastor: Sue Koesterman - [skoesterman@growinfaith.org](mailto:skoesterman@growinfaith.org)

Parish Business Manager: Katie Berg - [kberg@growinfaith.org](mailto:kberg@growinfaith.org)

Faith Formation Director: Maren Kramer - [mkramer@growinfaith.org](mailto:mkramer@growinfaith.org)

Executive Asst. for Finance & HR: Heather Reimer - [hreimer@growinfaith.org](mailto:hreimer@growinfaith.org)

Creative Worship Coordinator: Jane Whaley - [jwhaley@growinfaith.org](mailto:jwhaley@growinfaith.org)

Contemporary Worship Coordinator: Jamie Thompson

Church Council President: Ali Farstad – Olson

Church Council Vice President: Dan Knudsvig

Church Council Secretary: Katie Berg

Church Council Members: Trina Smaaladen, Brenda Jo Guillard, Ginny Jesser, Stephanie Rieniets, Jolanda Anderson, Susan Kaufman

Worship Sunday 9:00am Traditional (September – May)

11:00am Contemporary (September – May)

10:00am - Rotating Traditional & Contemporary (May 24 – September 13)

6:30pm – Wednesdays (May 27 – August 26)

Launch Family Sunday School for 4 years - Grade 5

Sunday, 10:00am - Fellowship Hall (During the school year)

Compass Confirmation for Grades 6 - 8

Wednesdays, 7:00pm - Worship Center (During the school year)

Find us on our Website: [www.growinfaith.org](http://www.growinfaith.org)

Instagram: [faithjourneyWF](https://www.instagram.com/faithjourneyWF)

Facebook: [faithjourneyWF](https://www.facebook.com/faithjourneyWF)

Send bulletin and newsletter information to: Jolanda Anderson - [jolandaanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jolandaanderson@gmail.com)

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Friday – 9:00am – 12noon



## Camp Wear Love

July 13–16, 2026

Monday–Thursday 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

For Kids Kindergarten – Grade 5

Lead by Red Willow Bible Camp Staff

Free to All Participants!

(Thanks to a Faith Formation Scholarship)

Lunch will be included

(We will move indoors if needed for weather)

Register now!

Volunteers will be needed!

Volunteers (6th grade – 105 years old!)

Host homes for camp staff (July 12–16)

Talk to Maren Kramer with questions & to volunteer

Full Camp  
Experience

Outdoor  
Camp  
Setup

Games

Crafts

Bible  
Lessons

Tents &  
a Fire  
Ring